

Lower Manhattan Cultural Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL COUNCIL PRESENTS TALKS AND TOURS BY RENOWNED SCHOLARS INSIDE STUNNING SPACES IN NEW YORK'S DOWNTOWN FINANCIAL DISTRICT

**ACCESS RESTRICTED: *THE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD*
JANUARY – APRIL 2009, FIVE DATES AND LOCATIONS
RSVP REQUIRED, FREE
RSVP at www.lmcc.net/accessrestricted**



New York, NY, December 15, 2008 –
Lower Manhattan Cultural Council
presents the return of the immensely
popular **Access Restricted** series with
its second installment, ***The Capital of
the World***, which is a commonly-
known reference to New York City.
*Access Restricted: The Capital of the
World* will explore some of the most
architecturally significant “temples”

built for and by the financial sector. The public will visit five historic private residences, meeting rooms, and penthouses that dot and crown the canyon of Wall Street. Each event in the series will tie a theme to the site, featuring a talk by a distinguished scholar or panel on the relationship between capital and urban development, highlighting how finance shapes our built environment. Admission is free with RSVP; to RSVP and for information and directions visit www.lmcc.net/accessrestricted.

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ACCESS RESTRICTED SCHEDULE, RSVP REQUIRED:

Wednesday, January 14, 6:30PM:

Carol Willis, “Form Follows Finance: The Architecture of Wall Street”

Bank of New York Building, One Wall Street (entrance at 80 Broadway)

Architectural Historian Carol Willis speaks about the effects of financial interests on the design and form of buildings. Situated on what was once considered the “most expensive real estate in New York,” the landmarked Bank of New York Building features two stunning Art Deco masterpieces, the Observation Room and the Red Room.

Wednesday, February 18, 6:30PM:

Miriam Greenberg, “The Shifting Skyline: Branding New York in Times of Financial Crisis”

JPMorgan Chase, One Chase Manhattan Plaza (main entrance)

Sociologist Miriam Greenberg speaks about the marketing of Lower Manhattan’s skyline as a sign of resurgence during the fiscal crisis of the 1970s. Gordon Bunshaft’s landmarked sleek aluminum and glass Modernist skyscraper features breathtaking panoramas of Lower Manhattan.

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30PM:

Robert Neuwirth, “Under the Table and Off the Books: Informal Economies in the Developing City – and Your City”

14 Wall, 14 Wall Street (between Broad and Nassau Streets)

Journalist Robert Neuwirth speaks about black, gray, and other alternative markets developed and practiced in various shanty towns and immigrant communities around the world. The landmarked site of J.P. Morgan’s former private residence, 14 Wall’s 31st floor most recently existed as a bar and restaurant.

Tuesday, March 24, 6:30PM:

“Urbanism, Inc.,” a panel discussion moderated by Neil Brenner featuring David Harvey, Laura Kurgan, and Peter Marcuse.

Down Town Association, 60 Pine Street (between Pearl and William Streets)

A fireside panel discussion with a sociologist, a geographer, an architect, and an urban planner on the real estate and financial sectors’ influence on urban development and policy, both locally and internationally. The landmarked Down Town Association is a private social club with a magnificent Jacobean-style paneled Reading Room.

Tuesday, April 28, 6:30PM:

Tom Angotti, “Bottom-Up Planning in the Real Estate Capital of the World?”

Forty Eight Wall Street, 48 Wall Street (between William and Hanover Streets)

Urban planner Tom Angotti speaks about histories of grassroots community urban planning in New York designed to sustain neighborhoods. A landmarked building, Forty Eight Wall Street’s Neo-Georgian cupola features a giant Federalist eagle perched on its spire.

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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:

Tom Angotti is Director of the Hunter College Center for Community Planning and Development of Urban Affairs and Planning at Hunter College, City University of New York. He is the author of *New York For Sale: Community Planning Confronts Global Real Estate*, *Metropolis 2000: Planning, Poverty, and Politics*, the coeditor of *Progressive Planning Magazine*, and a columnist for the online journal *Gotham Gazette*.

Neil Brenner is an urban political sociologist whose work has been grounded in interdisciplinary scholarship in critical geographical political economy—including the “Los Angeles School” of urban studies, the “new urban sociology,” global city theory, and various strands of critical economic and political geography. Brenner is Professor of Sociology, Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University.

Miriam Greenberg is the author of *Branding New York: How a City in Crisis was Sold to the World*. She received her PhD from the City University of New York Graduate Center, after 20 years of residence in New York. Greenberg is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at University of California Santa Cruz.

David Harvey is a leading social theorist of international standing, who has authored many books and essays that have been prominent in the development of modern geography as a discipline. His work has contributed greatly to broad social and political debate. Harvey recently has been credited with helping to bring back social class and Marxist methods as methodological tools in the critique of global capitalism. Harvey is the Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Laura Kurgan teaches architecture at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, where she is Director of Visual Studies and Spatial Information Design Lab. She has followed the declassification of satellite imagery and GPS technology, which has been exhibited internationally and collected in *You Are Here: Post-Military Technology* and the forthcoming *New Landscape of Satellite Images*. Kurgan runs an interdisciplinary design practice blending academic research with design, communication, advocacy and architecture, and works with New Visions for Public Schools.

Peter Marcuse has been involved with housing policy and globalization in recent years. He gave a keynote address at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001, and co-authored *Globalizing Cities: A New Spatial Order*. A further volume, similarly co-edited, called *Of State and Cities: On the Partitioning of Urban Space*, has been recently published. Marcuse is Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, and a Member of American Institute of Certified Planners, Connecticut Bar Association, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Housing Committee, and Community Board 9 of Manhattan.

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Robert Neuwirth lived in shanty towns across the developing world to write *Shadow Cities: A Billion Squatters, a New Urban World*, arguing that squatting is an ancient and legitimate form of urban development. This work was supported in part by a research and writing grant from the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. He has written for *The Nation*, *Fortune*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *New York*, *The Village Voice*, and *Wired*. Neuwirth has worked as a business, political, and investigative reporter for a variety of periodicals and television stations, and is currently working on a book about the global reach of informal economy.

Carol Willis is an architectural and urban historian, specializing in the history of American city building. She has authored *Form Follows Finance: Skyscrapers and Skylines in New York and Chicago*, an AIA book award recipient. She has written introductions for publications, including *Skyscraper Rivals*, *New York Architecture*, *Manhattan Skyscrapers*, and *New York Deco*, and has made appearances on The History Channel, PBS, NPR, and BBC. Willis is the Founder, Director, and Curator of The Skyscraper Museum, and is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Columbia University.

ABOUT ACCESS RESTRICTED:

Access Restricted is a free nomadic lecture series that opens rarely visited and often prohibited spaces in Lower Manhattan to the general public. Once inside these unique interiors, the audience is treated to a site-specific lecture and discussion addressing a range of topics revolving around issues of architectural history and preservation, social justice, and urban development. The aim of the series is to foster new perspectives by encouraging the public to explore locales and situations through the various lenses of architecture and planning, art, history, sociology, political science, and law.

ABOUT LMCC:

Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has been a leading voice for arts and culture downtown and throughout Manhattan for 35 years, producing cultural events and promoting the arts through grants, services, advocacy, and cultural development programs. www.lmcc.net.

SPECIAL THANKS:

Michael Ashworth and Paula Negrin of JPMorgan Chase; Colleen Harrison at Down Town Association; Robert P. Kelly and Patrick Koziol at the Bank of New York Mellon; Kent Swig and Andrew Flamm of Swig Equities; Kristin Aguilera of the Museum of American Finance; Joshua Zamir of Capstone Equities; Greg Brown of CB Richard Ellis.

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Photo credit: Dean Kaufman, *Observation Room, the Bank of New York Building, 2008*